

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette comprising a tobacco rod wrapped in a wrapper and a filter made of filtration material joined thereto forming a joint abutment, ~~the~~ said filtration material of said filter being wrapped along the length thereof in a tipping paper or other porous wrapper being other than a plugwrap, which is in direct contact with said filtration material, and a strip of material covering ~~the~~ said joint abutment and only areas closely adjacent said joint abutment of the tobacco rod and the filter, thus connecting the filter and tobacco rod, wherein the inherent permeability of the tipping paper or other porous wrapper is 50-500 CU.
2. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of material is tipping paper.
3. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of material is a foil material.
4. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of material is printed or imprinted.
5. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of material has a width of 4 to 12 mm.
6. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 5, wherein the strip of material has a width of 6 to 10 mm.
7. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of material extends over a maximum of 20% of the length of filter.

8. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 7, wherein the strip of material extends over less than 15% of the length of filter.

9. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the degree of coverage of the strip of material interattaching the filter and tobacco rod is equal.

10. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the tipping paper or other wrapper contains ventilation holes.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the basis weight of the tipping or other wrapper is 25-45 g/m².

13. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the tobacco rod wrapper is a wrapper comprising a particulate ceramic filler of predefined shape and a binder, with optional ash improver and/or burn additive.

14. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic filler is present in the range of 50-95% by weight of the wrapper.

15. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic filler has a particle size in the range of 2-90 μm .

16. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 15, wherein the ceramic filler has a mean particle size of about 50 μm .

17. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic filler is alumina or another similar thermally stable metal oxide or metal salt.

[[26]]18. (Currently Amended): A method of reducing filter-tip cigarette manufacturing cost, the method comprising providing batches of filters wrapped along their length in a tipping paper or other wrapper being other than plugwrap and each batch of wrapped filters having a predetermined ventilation level and being sourced from the same filter making machine, and supplying the batches of ventilated wrapped filters to respective filter tip assembly machines capable of producing a double cigarette assembly of a double filter between two wrapped tobacco rods, each filter tip assembly machine utilising two narrow strips of material to interattach the double filter and two wrapped tobacco rods, cutting the double filter to provide two filter tip cigarettes, and thereby producing batches of differently ventilated filter tip cigarettes from a plurality of filter tip assembly machines.

[[27]]19. (Currently Amended): A method of producing filter tip cigarettes comprising a filter wrapped in a tipping paper or other wrapper being other than plugwrap and a tobacco rod wrapped in a wrapper, the tipping paper or other wrapper of the filter having particulate material attached thereto, the method comprising the steps of supplying filter tow to a filter making machine, supplying the tipping paper or other wrapper to a particulate material applying station located at the filter making machine, at which station particulate material is attached to the tipping or other wrapper, wrapping the filter tow with the treated wrapper and cutting the wrapped filter tow into unit filter lengths, thereafter supplying the cut lengths to a filter tip assembly machine to produce filter tip cigarettes.

[[28]]20. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim [[26]]18, wherein an inherently porous tipping paper is employed.

[[29]]21. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim [[26]]18, wherein said tipping paper or other wrapper is provided with ventilation holes either during or after manufacture.

[[30]]22. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim [[26]]18, wherein the filter cigarette is provided with ventilation holes in the tipping paper or other wrapper.

[[31]]23. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim [[26]]18, wherein the ventilation holes are produced mechanically or by laser means.

24. (Canceled)

[[18]]25. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein said other wrapper is a barrier material which has a pore size of less than about 5 μm .

[[19]]26. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim [[18]]25, wherein said barrier material has a pore size of less than about 1 μm .

[[20]]27. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim [[18]]25, wherein said barrier material is formed from a vaporous porous polymeric material.

[[21]]28. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein a particulate material is applied at a predetermined location on said tipping paper or other wrapper.

[[22]]29. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim [[21]]28, wherein said particulate material is one or more of activated charcoal, activated carbon and molecule sieves.

[[23]]30. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein, when the tipping paper or other wrapper is perforated, the level of ventilation is between 50 and 5,000 CU/cm length in the area of the perforation.

[[25]]31. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the basis weight of the strip of material is in the range of 20-50 g/m².